

Court Information Release



United States District Court

Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division
219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604

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Chief Judge Pallmeyer Appoints Diversity Committee

Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer announced today that she has appointed a Racial Justice Diversity Committee for the Northern District of Illinois. The Committee has adopted this Mission Statement:

The Diversity Committee for the Northern District of Illinois (the “Committee”) will independently review any procedures or practices that might be helpful in aiding the Court to address racial disparities. The Committee will seek to evaluate methods that may help overcome any barriers to achieving the goal of equal justice for all.

The Committee will specifically study diversity at all staffing levels of the federal district court, as well as the general bar, trial bar, court monitors, special masters and receivers, CJA panel, and lawyers who serve as lead and liaison counsel in MDL proceedings.

The Committee will release a public report which outlines its recommendations to the Court and bar.

“Ongoing systemic racism has long existed in our nation, justice system, and legal profession. The Court recognizes that real change requires ongoing commitment and sustained effort. The appointment of a Diversity Committee is an important next step in examining and addressing these injustices. The Court is grateful to this esteemed panel for undertaking this critical task for the Northern District of Illinois,” said Chief Judge Pallmeyer.

The Committee will be chaired by its most recent Chief Judge, Hon. Rubén Castillo (Ret.), and by former Circuit Judge, Hon. Ann C. Williams, co-Chair. The Committee will release a public

report which outlines recommendations to the Court and bar. Members of the Committee include the following:

Hon. Rubén Castillo (Ret.), Partner, Akerman LLP, (Committee Chair)
Hon. Ann C. Williams (Ret.), Of Counsel, Jones Day (Committee Co-Chair)
Hon. Mark Filip (Ret.), Partner, Kirkland & Ellis
Hon. Arlander Keys (Ret.), Neutral, JAMS Attorney Dispute Resolutions
Hon. Nan R. Nolan (Ret.), Of Counsel, Redgrave LLP
Aurora Austriaco, Shareholder, Valentine Austriaco & Bueschel, P.C.
Angela E.L. Barnes, General Counsel, Director of Legal Affairs & Growth Initiatives
City Tech Collaborative
Olivia Luk Bedi, Partner, Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg LLP
Martin P. Greene, Partner, Zuber Lawler & Del Duca LLP
Eileen M. Letts, Partner, Zuber Lawler & Del Duca LLP
Gil M. Soffer, Managing Partner, Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP

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